

in Massachusetts seems to be somewhat doubtful, it may be worth while to record the fact that I saw one at Wauwinet on the island of Nantucket, August 6 and 7, 1918. The species formerly bred on Muskeget Island at the opposite end of Nantucket, where the killing of a family of six in order to protect the Tern colony from their depredations led to a discussion as to the probability that they belonged to an undescribed insular race (see Auk, 1897, 388; 1898, 75-77, 210-213). Mr. George H. Mackay writes me that he has been well satisfied that in the past the species "bred quite regularly (say one or two pairs) in the vicinity of Siasconset on Nantucket and more rarely on Muskeget Island." Siasconset is a little south of Wauwinet, on the eastern shore of the island.—FRANCIS H. ALLEN, *West Roxbury, Mass.*

**On *Brotogeris ferrugineifrons* Lawrence.**—In 'The Ibis' for 1880 (page 238) Mr. George N. Lawrence described a new Parakeet from Bogotá, Colombia, under the name of *Brotogerys ferrugineifrons*. This is evidently a very rare bird in collections. In fact, so far as I know, the type, which is now in the American Museum of Natural History (No. 44744), is the only known specimen.

This species is well marked and can be confused with no other. It does not, however, belong to the genus *Brotogeris*, but to *Bolborhynchus*. This is shown by the form of the bill and by the presence of the oil-gland which bears a large tuft. In *Brotogeris* the oil-gland is wholly absent.

*Bolborhynchus ferrugineifrons* is most nearly allied to *B. audicola*, with which it agrees in its uniform green plumage, the tail two-thirds as long as the wing, and the tenth primary shorter than the ninth. It differs from that species, as well as from *B. lincola*, in its decidedly greater size, darker green coloration, and in the rusty forehead and face.

The skin is not of native Bogotá make, and the name "Wallace" on Lawrence's label indicates that the specimen was obtained from the New York taxidermist, John Wallace. The measurements, in millimeters, of the type specimen are as follows: Wings, 116 and 118; tail, 77.5; culmen, 14; tarsus, 15. The tail is graduated for 24 mm.—W. DEW. MILLER, *American Museum of Natural History, New York City.*

**Arctic Three-toed Woodpecker (*Picoides arcticus*) at Belmont, Mass.**—I am able to furnish one more record of this species rare in eastern Massachusetts. On October 17, 1918, in a ramble over the Belmont Hill pasture and wooded lands, I came upon an adult male bird working assiduously for grubs upon a dead pitch pine tree. The yellow crown was a conspicuous feature. He allowed as near an approach as fifty feet and permitted me an exhaustive survey of him. After a time he dropped to a prostrate trunk of pitch pine close by and was then but thirty-five feet from the rock on which I had seated myself, thus indicating an absence of shyness.

My only earlier record of an Arctic Three-toed Woodpecker in this state was of an adult male bird also, seen in Pine Banks Park, Malden-Melrose, on October 22, 1904,<sup>1</sup> and recorded there from time to time through the season up to April 21, 1905, thereby completing a six months' residence.

On my next trip over the Belmont lands on November 2 I did not find this Woodpecker.—HORACE W. WRIGHT, *Boston, Mass.*

**The Song of the Blue Jay.**—Possibly many who read the above title will think that they glimpse in it a lurking sarcasm, as they recall the notes which usually announce the presence of the "screaming jay," for comparatively few bird students or writers upon bird song seem to be aware of the Blue Jay's best musical performance.

Blue Jays are numerous in Florida and during my last two winters there I met a number of bird students in different localities who spoke to me of the Blue Jay song to which I refer, describing it as sweet, tender and quite lovely; delivered, they asserted, with a retiring modesty not perceptible in the Blue Jay's deportment on other occasions.

One friend, who is a keen observer of birds and their music, told me that when she spoke to him, some years ago, about this particular melody he said he had never heard any such song from the Blue Jay, but at a more recent period when meeting her again he referred to the song in question and said, "I have heard it since talking with you."

Though these reports occasionally came to me I did not hear the Blue Jay sing until last July in Winter Park, Florida. While a friend and I were seated near a window, dining, we heard a song unlike that of any of the common birds with which we were familiar; it was not loud nor ringing, nor at all like whistling, but the notes were formed into a sweet and somewhat complex bird melody. All paused to listen and it required from us only a lifting of the eyes to discover the singer, a Blue Jay, perching outside of the window on the lowest branch of a pine tree.

A search through books on birds and their notes yielded interesting quotations from the following authors:—in his 'Fieldbook of Wild Birds and their Music,' Mr. F. Schuyler Mathews says of the Blue Jay, "He attempts nothing that we can call a song." In the 'Color Key to North American Birds' by Dr. Frank M. Chapman and Chester A. Reed, turning to the description of the Blue Jay we read, "Notes: varied; commonly a loud harsh jay, jay; often whistling calls and imitations of the notes of other birds, particularly of common hawks." There is a similar estimate of the Blue Jay's musical powers in Chester A. Reed's "Bird Guide."

From Mabel Osgood Wright we have:—"A whistling bell-note in the breeding season; the usual cry a screaming jay, jay, jay." Nor do Bradford Torrey, Florence Merriam Bailey, Simeon Pease Cheney, and many others allude to a song from the Blue Jay.

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<sup>1</sup> Auk, vol. XXII, Jan. 1905, p. 80.